

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/775,254

Examiner

Tan T. Nguyen

Applicant(s)

IWATA ET AL.

Art Unit

2827

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment submitted on September 8, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 10-22.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☒ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 01/06
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

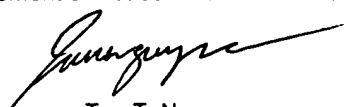
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.

7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____


Tan T. Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2827

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1. The amendment submitted by Applicant on September 8, 2006 has been received and entered.
2. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority based on an application filed in Japan on February 12, 2003. It is noted, however, that applicant has not filed a certified copy of the Japan application as required by 35 U.S.C. 119(b).
3. Claims 10-22 are allowed.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The closest prior art to the present invention is Kanai et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,822,926). Kanai et al. disclosed a nonvolatile memory device having a plurality of memory cells, each having a first and second MONOS cells. Kanai et al. failed to show or suggest the memory functional units being an insulator containing silicone nitride as in claims 10, 12, 15-17, 20-22, or the paired memory cells integrally share the memory functional units at both sides of the gate electrodes as in claim 11, or the storing states of the two memory functional units belong to the same memory cell are the same and information stored in memory functional units belonging to one of the paired memory cells is different from information stored in memory functional units belonging to the other of the paired memory cells as in claim 13, or the paired memory cell are connected to different word lines, and an output of a predetermined paired memory cell is inputted to the amplifier by selection of one word line as in claim 14, or the memory functional unit includes a film having the function of retaining charges and whose surface is disposed substantially parallel with the side face of the gate electrode as in

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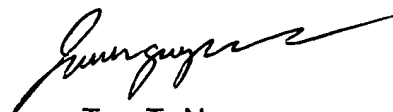
claim 18, or the memory functional unit has an insulating film which is thinner than the gate insulating film and has a thickness of 0.9 nm or more as in claim 19.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tan T. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-1789. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 07:00 AM to 03:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Amir Zarabian, can be reached at (571) 272-1852. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Tan T. Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2827
September 15, 2006